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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 10 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to our previous communications (A/47/536-S/24667 and A/47/856-S/25063) concerning the demographic structure of the Cypriot communities and the continuing, systematic and planned implantation of Turkish settlers in the occupied areas of Cyprus, and to inform you that the illegal regime in the occupied areas of Cyprus has now "decided" to proceed with the "naturalization" of 5,000 Turkish settlers.

More specifically on the basis of Turkish-Cypriot newspaper reports (Yeniduzen, 5 August 1993) and public statements, it has been made known that the illegal regime in the occupied areas of Cyprus has "decided" to proceed with the "naturalization" of 5,000 settlers in view of the forthcoming "elections" in the occupied areas. This blatant disregard of international legality is clearly directed not only against the interests of the people of Cyprus as a whole but additionally demonstrates the means and ends that the illegal occupation "regime" is willing to use and go to, even against the interests of the Turkish-Cypriots themselves, in order to promote its political objectives and designs. This latest manifestation of illegality has come under very strong criticism by a number of Turkish-Cypriot politicians (Messrs Ozgur, Akinci and Atun) who characterized it as one more effort to change the demographic structure of the occupied areas and the political will of the Turkish-Cypriot community.

As we have repeatedly stated in the past, there has been a deliberate and systematic attempt by the Turkish side, which still continues unabated, to alter the demographic structure of the Republic of Cyprus through the implantation of Turkish settlers who, to date, have reached the number of 80,000 to 85,000 persons. The effects of the implantation of such a large number of settlers become all the more significant and worrisome if one bears in mind that the size of the Turkish-Cypriot community has continuously, throughout this period,

diminished by more than one third its original size (approximately 115,000 in 1974), thus making it quite clear that this illegal policy and its negative consequences are not only directed against the Greek-Cypriot community but also against the Turkish-Cypriot community.

As will be recalled from our previous communication of 15 October 1992 (A/47/536-S/24667), the issue of the alteration of the demographic structure of Cyprus was examined by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which adopted a relevant resolution on 7 October 1992, following a report of its Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography. This report was prepared by a special rapporteur on the subject, Mr. Alfons Cuco (Spain), who visited Cyprus and examined the problem on the spot. To quote from the resolution, the Council of Europe determined that "the presence and naturalization of the Turkish migrants, who once established on the island become settlers, constitute an additional obstacle to a peaceful, negotiated solution of the Cypriot conflict" (para. 8). Similarly in the recent Opinion issued by the Commission of the European Community on the Application of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for membership in the Community, the problem of the settlers and the Turkish army in the occupied areas of Cyprus is highlighted by also making the point that "part of the Turkish-Cypriot population that was present in the Island in 1974 has since emigrated".

In concluding, let me reiterate our conviction that the solution of the Cyprus problem can only be achieved through the respect of international legality, the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the manifestation, in a practical manner, of good will in your efforts to achieve a viable, just and workable solution. The Turkish policy of confronting the whole world with new and additional "faits accomplis" and the intransigence and bad faith shown in the course of the negotiations cannot but further exacerbate the situation and make the solution of the Cyprus problem all the more difficult to achieve.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. J. JACOVIDES
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations